

Amendment 1980 - To put an end to corporate welfare by preventing large corporations from receiving grants from a Department of Energy program.

The Advanced Research Projects Agency—Energy (ARPA-E) is operated by the Department of Energy and modeled after the Defense Department’s “DARPA” program to fund high-risk technological breakthroughs.

To date, ARPA-E has produced no such breakthroughs but has cost taxpayers \$869.6 million in congressional appropriations.

Since its inception, ARPA-E has funded 181 projects in total. But 32 of these projects went to projects led by large businesses—defined by the agency as companies that employ 1,000 individuals or more.

The total cost of these 32 projects was \$93 million.

This money went to companies like Boeing, GE, GM, DuPont, and United Technologies. (List attached).

Most of these large companies receiving funding from ARPA-E are highly capitalized and have the resources to fund their own research if they can determine them as worthwhile investments.

According to GAO’s findings, ARPA-E justifies the funding awards, because the companies’ shareholders demand a higher return on investment than most of these R&D projects offer.

While I welcome targeted and measured scientific research, it should be done more efficiently. To achieve this, funding should only reach companies that would not otherwise have access to enough capital to conduct the R&D.

ARPA-E recently announced its second full funding round of \$150 million.

This amendment will prohibit funding awards in the second solicitation of funding from benefiting large companies that are already well-positioned to take on these R&D projects if they are truly worth pursuing.